

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement, claims 1-13, 34, and 35-45 are now pending and claims 14-33 and 46-60 were previously cancelled/withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 34 and 35 have been amended by the current amendment.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §112

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claim 34 has been amended to clarify that it is compression of pairs of opposing sides that occurs rather than compression of *any* opposing surfaces.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102 and §103

Claims 1, 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Burton 5,141,509.

Applicant respectfully submits that features now recited in amended, independent claims 1, 34 and 35 are not found, taught or suggested in any of the prior art and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

/Kimberly K. Baxter/

Kimberly K. Baxter
Registration No. 40,504

Customer No. 40636
AMS Research Corporation
10700 Bren Road West
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343
Telephone: (952) 930-6147